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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/974,594	10/09/2001	Norman Ken Ouchi		7077

41212 7590 03/22/2007
NORMAN KEN OUCHI
P.O. BOX 20111
SAN JOSE, CA 95160

EXAMINER

ALAM, UZMA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/974,594	OUCHI, NORMAN KEN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Uzma Alam	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the amendment filed on October April 13, 2005. Claims 1-20 are cancelled. Claims 21-40 are pending. Claims 21-40 represent means for tailoring workflow steps.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 21-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gondo et al.

US Patent Publication No. 2003/0079186.

Gondo teaches the invention as claimed including an information collecting/providing system which classifies information and manages it (see abstract).

As per claims 21, 28 and 36, Gondo teaches a method, system and screen for the controlled processing of classified file types wherein a first file of a first classified file type is processed into a second file of a second classified file type by a plurality of users with access to a route directed workflow system in a computer network comprising the steps of:

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dividing the process into a first classified file type attachment step, a first classified file type download step, a step that processes a first classified file type into a second classified file type, a second classified file type attachment step, and a second classified file type download step (Gondo teaches a information management system method and user interface in which information is classified 0054-0055; 0080-0081; 0084; 0090-0091);

producing a route with a route step that specifies attachment of a first classified file type by a first user, followed by a route Step that specifies the download of a first classified file type by a second user, followed by a route step that specifies the attachment of a second classified file type by the second user, followed by a route step that specifies the download of a second classified file type by a third user (the files and downloaded, classified and modified and each step is recorded by the system; paragraphs 0101; 0105);

executing the route in a workflow system directed by the route such that the workflow system in response to a route step presents to the user a screen with means to attach or download a classified file type (Gondo teaches a that a screen is used to communicate the classification and files names to the user, paragraphs 0084; 0101; ; 0116; 0123).;

such that the first user attaches a first file of the first classified file type; the second user downloads the first file, processes the first file into a second file of the second classified file type, and attaches the second file; and the third user downloads the second file (Gondo discloses a information management system method and user interface in which information is classified and then emailed in the form of an attachment or downloaded and modified and sent back to the server; paragraphs 0054-0055; 0080-0081; 0084; 0090-0091; 0101; 0105; 0116; 0123).

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As per claims 22 and 29, Gondo teaches the method and system of claims 21 and 28, wherein the file attachment can attach files with a parent-child relationship (0065).

As per claims 22 and 29, Gondo teaches the method and system of claims 21 and 28

As per claims 23, 31 and 40, Gondo teaches the method, system and screen of claims 21, 28 and 36, wherein a third file can have the same file name as 8 fourth file and the files are distinguishable (Gondo discloses a classification system in which the user can tell how often the file has been modified; 0061-0063).

As per claims 24 and 32, Gondo teaches the method and system of claims 21, 28 wherein the route has a loop and the files in each iteration of the loop are distinguishable. (Gondo discloses a classification system in which the user can tell how often the file has been modified; 0061-0063).

As per claims 25, 33, 34 and 39, Gondo teaches the method, system and screen of claims 21, 28 and 36, wherein the route provides a conditional branch capability at a route step and the user at the route step indicates the branch choice for the next route step, (Gondo discloses a method for deciding which part of the tree is going to be searched; paragraphs 0091; 0121-0125).

As per claims 26 and 35, Gondo teaches the method and system of claims 21 and 28, wherein the screen at a route step provides a means to download a file based on the file classification (paragraph 0091).

As per claims 27, 30, 37 and 38, Gondo teaches the method, system and screen of claims 21, 28 and 36, wherein the file download can download files in a parent-child relationship (0065).

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

2. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

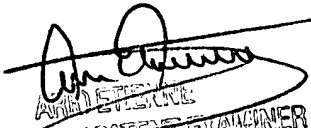
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uzma Alam whose telephone number is (571) 272-3995. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday 5:30 AM - 2:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Uzma Alam
Ua
March 12, 2007


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